

FISH WILDLAND FIRE USE 08/16/2008 UPDATE

Start Date: July 30, 2008
Cause: Lightning
Acres: 24 Acres
Location: Approximately 10.5 miles northwest of Scofield.

Narrative: A fire continues to burn in Fish Creek drainage. Smoke and flames may be visible from North Skyline Drive and the Scofield area for the next few weeks depending on weather conditions and fire behavior. Fire activity and smoke are generally greatest during the late afternoons, when temperatures are highest and humidity is lowest.

The fire is burning among a sub-alpine fir, spruce and aspen ecosystem. Fire managers review the progress of the fire and weather forecasts regularly to determine if suppression action is necessary to protect life and property.

Closures: None at this time.

Wildland Fire Use: This lightning caused fire is being managed to accomplish resource objectives as outlined in the Manti-La Sal's Fire Management Plan. Under specific management guidelines, the plan allows naturally ignited fires to burn within designated Wildland fire use (WFU) areas. Under these conditions, fire is allowed to play its natural role on the landscape. WFU accomplishes many resource benefits. These benefits include the restoration and maintenance of healthy forests, rangelands and wetlands, as well as, improvement to wildlife habitat for mule deer and elk, and forage for domestic livestock. WFU can also cut fire suppression costs and the dynamics of a wildland fire are reduced due to the reduction of hazardous fuels and keep firefighters available for priority fire suppression efforts elsewhere. Agencies that have been using WFU for a long time are showing a reduction in the risk of large-scale fire.

It is important to recognize that WFU fires are actively managed. Managers review the fire's progress and weather forecasts to determine if the fire stays in pre-designated boundaries and if resource objectives are being met.

WFU is often a long duration event. Fires may burn all summer until snow or rain puts them out or they may burn only one or two days. Smoke can be a temporary inconvenience to the general public along with limited travel and potential closure of public use within the effected areas. Closures are not expected in the Fish WFU fire area.

Colt Mortenson, Fire Use Manager, would like to remind everyone to be especially careful and fire conscious while recreating this summer.

Contact Information: If you need further information visit www.utahfireinfo.gov or please contact the Price/Ferron Ranger District at (435) 384-2372.